A Logistics Checklist for Preparing Children for an International Move

Families relocate abroad successfully every day, and there is a good amount of research and hands-on experience to draw from.

When to Start	Task	
As soon as possible	Check your destination country's visa and entry requirements for dependents.	
4 to 6 months before	Research and apply to schools, and ask about waiting lists and language support.	
4 to 6 months before	Apply for or renew each child's passport (both parents must appear in person for children under 16).	
3 to 4 months before	Compare international health insurance plans and confirm pediatric coverage.	
3 to 4 months before	Start the authentication or translation process for school and medical records.	
2 to 3 months before	Schedule a pediatrician visit to update vaccination and medical records.	
2 to 3 months before	Request school record transfers from your child's current school.	
4 to 6 weeks before	Gather any notarized consent letters needed for travel with one parent.	
The week of the move	Pack a first-week bag with each child's comfort items, medications, and favorite toy. If you're shipping your goods by the sea you'll want to prepare extra clothing, bedding, books, and toys than you might think are necessary.	